Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06087 231447Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 NSC-05 SSO-00 /035 W
----------085163 231457Z /50
P 231425Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3082
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6087

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CHRISTOPHER VISIT TO ATHENS

REF: STATE 212601

1. IMMEDIATE REACTION OF MANY TURKISH OFFICIALS TO CHRISTOPHER VISIT TO ATHENS WOULD PROBABLY BE DISAPPOINTMENT IF ANKARA IS LEFT OFF THE ITINERARY. WE CAN, HOWEVER, EFFECTIVELY ARGUE HERE THAT IT IS IN TURKEY'S BEST INTEREST TO SEE THAT US BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY ARE NOT REPEAT NOT LUMPED TOGETHER IN SENSE THAT EVERY TIME US OFFICIAL VISITS REGION HE MUST TOUCH BASE IN BOTH CAPITALS FOR COSMETIC REASONS REGARDLESS OF SUBSTANTIVE NEEDS. THE GOT HAS MAINTAINED THAT WE HAVE INTERESTS IN TURKEY WHICH ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WHICH WE HAVE IN GREECE AND HAS URGED US NOT TO EQUATE THE TWO COUNTRIES. A CHRISTOPHER VISIT TO ATHENS, WITHOUT A STOPOVER IN ANKARA, MIGHT BE A HELPFUL DEMONSTRATION OF THAT PRINCIPLE.

2. WE WOULD SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY LEAVE OPEN THE OPTION OF ADDING ANKARA TO HIS ITINERARY IF FOR SUBSTANTIVE REASONS, THIS SEEMS IN OUR INTEREST. WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THINGS WILL STAND WITH TURKEY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MID-OCTOBER, BUT WE COULD BE AT A STAGE WHERE DEPSEC'S VISIT WOULD BE HELPFUL. THIS DETERMINATION WOULD, OF COURSE, DEPEND ON THE SITUATION AT THE TIME. WE WOULD SIMPLY LIKE TO HOLD OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ANKARA STOP UNTIL WE GET CLOSE TO THE DATE OF THE DEPSEC'S TRAVEL.

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3. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ADVANCE OF A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY CHRISTOPHER TRAVEL TO ATHENS.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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